

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 remain pending in the present application. Claim 6-15 have been allowed. Claim 1 has been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Talbot for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on June 28, 2007.

At the interview, Claim 1 was discussed. It was concluded that Claim 1 would be amended to further define an activation element that is non-rotational with respect to the recited members of the drill/driver chuck. Claim 1 has been amended to provide this element.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to be anticipated by GB 2199776.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 further defines an activation element which is non-rotatably movable along the longitudinal axis to apply force to the conical jaw actuator. Thus, no rotational movement occurs in the cylindrical member, plurality of jaws, and conical jaw actuator in order to enable transitional movement of the plurality of jaws along the axis.

As was discussed at the interview, the United Kingdom reference fails to illustrate these features. In fact, the United Kingdom reference illustrates a nut 40 that is rotatable to close the jaw members.

Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2-5, which depend from Claim 1, are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35. U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Schliep (U.S. Patent No. 4,366,732) in view of Thomas (U.S. Patent No. (U.S. Patent No. 2,404,006).

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 further defines an activation element as defined above.

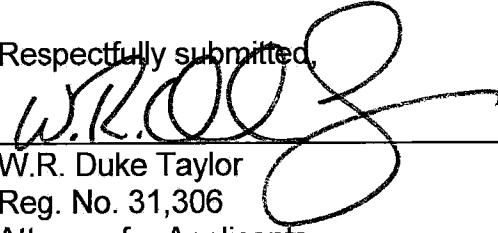
Both the Schliep and Thomas references include rotational movement in order to close the jaws around a tool bit. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2-5 are patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner.

Claims 6-15 have previously been indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,


W.R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306
Attorney for Applicants

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
(248) 641-1600

Date: July 2, 2007
WRDT/lkj

Attorney Docket No. 0275S-001193